

Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group

November 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

George Hollister (GH), Doug Albin (DA), Mike Anderson (MA), Michael Jones (MJ), and Charlie Schneider (CS), Mike Powers (MP), Robert Horvat (RH), Jason Serna (JS), Lynn Webb (LW), Joy Korstjens (JK), John Griffen (JG), *Guest/Public*: Wayne Bohlen (Boys and Girls Club), Myke Berna (Mendocino Coast Cyclists), Marc Jensen (MCC), Loraine Duff (equestrian), Zoe Berna (community physician/equestrian), Brian West (Mendocino Forest Products)

Call to Order and Introductions

Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes *Review Item taken out of order at break* Minutes from the May 7, 2019 JAG Meeting. Motion to approve by Doug Albin and second by Mike Anderson. Unanimous approval of minutes as presented. Amy Wynn and John Andersen absent

Exparte Communication Disclosure: George Hollister believes he communicated one-way with both Mike Powers and Lynn Webb.

Staff Reports

Robert Horvat

Roads and Recreation. Pretty good year in Recreation but users down due to mild weather, maintenance work up on outhouses and trails, including Camp 1 Loop Trail. *Zoe Berna joined meeting.* Waterfall Grove Trail, horse bypass trail on decommissioned Road 111, plans to start construction with MCC in Woodlands area Rd 700 to Forest History Trail. Overall program moving along. Road maintenance program behind on in-house projects but more contract work, such as Rd 200 bridge work, which was complex and did a lot of upgrading along Rd 200 culverts. At this time, doing a lot of contract work due to limited HFEO time. Prioritizing roads near streams – Bunker Gulch, near Hare Creek, etc. Over 10 miles of road decommissioned to date over 10 years, with priority roads nearest streams/for water quality. MA – Any problems with motorcycles on decommissioned roads? RH – Yes, hard to stop, but in house LE last few years has helped with word getting out there. Bunker Gulch has a lot of stream crossings so unknown if will have same problems. MA – Camping up or down? RH – Mild weather and lack of fires led to less campers, but more trailers this year and they love it. MA – Camper demographics? RH – Lots of locals, younger and older families, people out of area in trailers. MA – Do have a beautiful area, but mind the dust. RH – Would like more dust off applied in Recreation areas but pricey. MP – Upgrade to Rd 350 coming next year, will have some chip sealing etc. to improve Camp 1 Day Use areas, also \$3 million O&E this fiscal year and one half dedicated to road projects to invest in infrastructure. CS – Trestle Trail? RH – Not much attention paid recently because access closed due to Camp 8 timber sale plus patch of Sudden Oak Death that seems to be spreading so no maintenance. Future goal to get in there to clean it up and at some point rehab the campgrounds on Rd 361. MB – Trestle Trail same as Bob Woods? LW/RH – No, near but not same.

Jason Serna

Timber Update. Sequoia completion will close out SF Caspar THP. Camp 8 #2 restarted 3rd year, significant overrun, possibly due to tall trees. Also, this LTO ships everything, not much of a cull deck left behind. Same thing happened at Wonder Crossing. CDFW wanted Wonder Crossing redone to temper grade, Brian West a big help with that because logger did it right the first time. Big problem this year with contracts for various reasons; 23 Gulch contract approved in July, operations started August, now slowed and prepping for Winter ops. Weather permitting, log all winter and finish June/July. Bear Gulch also started late due to contract delays, but then moved almost 2 million board feet in 2 weeks, pulling equipment out now, amendment put in for Winter Ops but not sure if they (purchasers) want that. Timber sale prep for next year, potential for 5 sales, with Parlin 17 broken into 3 pieces, with the first being a 2-year sale that needs a bridge at Parlin; tour scheduled for 11/19/19, with bid 12/10/19. Second sale will be Chamberlain Confluence, breaking that into sections as well, a bridge is a component of this sale too which might shut down the timber operations for 2-3 weeks and lots of road work needing to be done prior to completion. Also, James Creek THP, but not optimistic on this one. The "Moe" is the second piece of Parlin to be sold, has a hardwood treatment area, with the bid scheduled for 1/14/20. Earliest start for Camp 17 is June, most attractive sale, by McGuire's, in and out, no roads construction, etc., in and out. Bid 1/28/20. James Creek THP tour scheduled for 1/16/20, bid 2/11/20. 115 acres with 15 million board feet to be sold this year, with a 60/40 RWD/DF split. Work in Progress Redtail (formerly Boundary Creek) will be submitted around Thanksgiving, Soda Gulch will be submitted around Christmas, Caspar 500 submission sometime Dec/Jan, will talk about more on tour, sell it in 2021 with the north half of Chamberlain Confluence and Old Berry near Old Mill Farm (JAG hasn't seen that one yet). Brian West (BW) - How's staffing? JS - Haven't replaced Gwyn, new list soon, no applications to date, may have to downgrade position to fill. GH - Overrun situation concerning, is there a pretty good idea of why it's happening? JS - Same equation is used Forest wide; SF Caspar was underrun and those trees are short vs the taller trees at Camp 8. GH - When done, does it meet goal? JS - Yes, basal area there. GH - What about species composition? JS - As far as we know - maybe Lynn should answer this one. LW - Will be cruising next week. MP - Tree height applies to sale is where we get actual vs. predicted - not to do with Management Plan. GH - Questions about why it keeps going on, Mike Anderson can probably address this better but logger always wants to know what's out there so no surprises. LW - Partial uneven age don't grow as tall, site quality plus infringing of salt spray and weather, site quality can change within 500 feet. Excited about LiDar possibilities, but need right metric. JS - Usually do 100% tally and give purchaser a table and they can plug that into their own tally. MP - But we aren't measuring every tree out there. GH - Contract problem? JS - Hung up in Sacramento. GH- Bureaucratic issues. JS - Yeah. BW/JS - VR problems, Caspar large units, 1 plot per acre which kind of need.

Lynn Webb

Research and Demonstration. Since last time we met in May, multiage silviculture presentation well received, had to cap attendees at 50 due to transportation. Pascal Berrill was there. Vegetation Management Conference aka the "Weed Tour" was a 2-day tour that involved State Parks, industrial owners, etc. Provided good perspective, looking at regen units and interpretive trails, good feedback. Outreach last week took Mendocino Coast students out on Jackson. Very few publications (related to JDSF research) are on the website currently, hope to change that; research by Pascal Berrill out now and well received. Returning redwoods, regen in grasslands - Soper Wheeler, MRC, JDSF - Jackson trees

smaller because shaded area. Redwood tree improvement co-op, seed improvement sources – just signed MOU – using cuttings since seed produced every 30yrs, best so far was from 2009 due to fires. We are working with Oregon State University. Caspar Experiment delayed due to logging going 3 years vs the expected 2 years and road decommissioning taking 2 years vs 1 year, but other than that going well. New projects for the forest include Takachara(?) new method of biochar and Sonoma State testing terrestrial LiDar. CS – Who are you working with as Sonoma State? LW – Clark is one. CS – Matthew. LW – And a woman who wrote the grant. Also a professor at HSU I am talking to about how to use LiDar data; Green Diamond is also very good about saying what worked/didn't work for them but Lidar good so far with roads/water/tall trees. Bat projects are progressing, and working with Darcy Mahoney this week on study of turkey tail mushrooms on decay of stumps. Also have a vacancy to fill with promotion of Jeremiah. CS – What about the E-DNA sampling? LW – Yes, but no results yet and sensitive to late storms we got, as was Caspar stream data. MP/GH – Any more questions for Lynn? No.

Mike Powers

Administration. Let me fill in some gaps – Darcy Mahoney and Kim Rodrigues stepped down from the JAG and one vacancy has been replaced with Mike Jones, but still looking for a consulting RPF to fill behind Darcy. Two Forester I vacancies that have been advertised without much response. List for Forester I & II being renewed and hoping for new candidates, meantime down 2 staff. Working on a contract with Mendocino RCD for filling needs, such as botanical and spotted owl surveys, etc. because they are considered quasi government so it is easier. Roads and bridges projects are always ongoing because those are critical infrastructure with an endless backlog that we are constantly investing in. We replaced 2 bridges from the 1950's and hope to keep the pace of replacement to 1 to 2 per year based on what we can afford. Middle bridge on Rd 200 is next, and there is a timber sale in place that contains the replacement of the bridge at Parlin which is also critical. Rd 200 bridge replacement went fairly well, good neighbor cooperation with Rd 1000 from MRC, probably going to have to repeat for the next bridge. Rd 540 project is an emergency evacuation route along Gibney/Mitchell Creek, and we still need to haul rock but through environmental review and project begun. Little Red Schoolhouse has finished Phase 2, which was windows, repainting, etc. MA – Any problems with vandalism? MP – Not yet; we put plexiglass in front of windows to help with that. MP – Caltrans will be working on the Camp 20 realignment next year, and they are still committed to replacing the Day Use Area parking. Still think they can do it in 1 year, and they also have plans to realign the James Creek area of Hwy 20, and we are working with them on that. The Rock Quarry project is ongoing, have a contract to dig more rock, probably a continuous project as it's been used on timber sales to rock roads. This year have full budget of \$3 million for O&E, with half going to roads and bridges, one third of the remaining to research and the rest to lights, electricity, etc. No questions, end Staff Reports.

Public Comment

GH – Ahead of schedule, want to remind everyone that we are an Advisory Group not a Board of Directors, JDSF is good at listening and adjusting. We make recommendations based on the Management Plan, although sometimes discussions go beyond the Management Plan. JDSF has moved ahead from being in a big hole 10 years ago; the JAG has pushed for improved recreation based on public input, and a lot of positive things have happened since Mike Powers got here. Room to do better

– would like to see newsletter restarted. Since there are probably people here right now who aren't going to be able to go out on the tour, let's take public comment now. Myke Berna (MB) – Here for THP in Caspar – the timing of it – big piece of lumber pulled out of "Scales" area, and that's one of two areas that's high population usage. Loraine Duff (LD) – easy access. MB -THP running at same time as others affecting recreation use, same area as NF Big River (per JS 2022), overlapping areas south of Hwy 20 going to affect a lot of public use and put a squeeze on us. JS – Caspar 500 to start in 2021 and potentially cleared for use by 2022. Can possibly keep some areas open as nothing is set yet, but can minimize closures except for "Blue Gum" as it's in the heart of it. GH – Primary concern is areas closed off? MB – Yes, we try to keep people off closed trails, but with 3 areas closed it's going to be hard to give them options. MP – Recognize 2 areas are major recreation areas and we can talk about how to mitigate conflicts and there are things we can do to shift impact or spread them throughout the forest. MB – Sticking with Caspar, Nick flagged on south side of road that could be looked at. JS – It's on these maps. MB – When we can get out there and clear trail, Mike Anderson is helpful. We want to work with you and have true deadlines. JS – You are representing Mendocino Coast Cyclists? We need to know which are most important trails. MP – Know "Blue Gum" is important to you guys but it's not a recognized trail, it's a road, but we could look into decommissioning the road and making it a trail. Zoe Berna (ZB) – Representing the health of the community and our citizens, and the benefits of physical exercise and mental health with use of JDSF for recreation. As an equestrian, worried about riding north of Hwy 20 because it puts us in path of motorcyclists, which is scary as an equestrian. Trails/500 are important to maintain for recreation. GH – Thanks for that perspective. LD – Scary that you will put us all on one trail because general use horse/bikes together is not good. ZB – We so use the same trails. MP – We understand that elimination of options puts you on the same trail, which can equal conflict. JS – Can happen fairly quickly, but then need windstorm to knock down widow makers. LD – Back up – went to practically every meeting of the JAG at the Senior Center (3 years), then dropped out because thought Rd 500 wasn't even going to be logged, and now it's not being logged because of public risk, but for board feet and money. But I'm also hearing that there isn't enough money for everything else recreation-wise. LW – I've got some JAG history, there was lots of focus on the area around Camp One, that area at 500 is general forest. MA – Practically, neither JDSF nor timber industry looking to cause problems for people using the forest; Jason can put together a meeting to see your values/trails and that they are put back together after harvest. LD – I'm going behind that and saying why that area? Stay out. GH – As we go ahead, see more need for recreation and see on our private lands the same issues, so how do we log and maintain good looking forest plus address safety issues and infrastructure and all the impacts? So I see what JDSF is doing here important on how to resolve conflicts and still make money for infrastructure and the planning that comes from sale of timber. JDSF is beginning the process of compatibility with use on private property – motorcycles, conflict – providing input and JAG interested in multiple uses – might be we don't do Caspar 500 THP until other areas available so we don't have conflict, but how do we compromise to make it work? LD – Don't want it to work at 500 because it's a special area. GH- Ok. Marc Jensen (MJ) – Mechanized trail equipment in and better trail design to eliminate blind corners – going forward next 5-10 years building trails. CS – THP process good way to do environmental review for decommissioning roads (Blue Gum) for trails. Recreation isn't primary goal, but California needs to balance recreation and logging, but if we have to take a year off trail to get it logged and redone right, then that's an investment in the future. MP – Trail reconstruction/reestablishment done as part of THP and when it's officially converted, it's maintained in perpetuity. The Management Plan is our primary mandate; recreation to the public is secondary.

Caspar 500 is general forest area, not a special area per the Management Plan. Also, we are special funded i.e. our revenue generated through logging is how we pay for ourselves and some other demonstration state forests. If we have to interrupt areas used by the public for recreation for a year, there is an interval of 15-20 years and THPs are spread out over 50,000 acres, so it's hard to avoid all conflict, but we do recognize and try to mitigate it. MA – Good amount of trail in shaded fuel break area – how will that be accomplished, masticating? MP – that, hand crews, haven't determined yet. CS – Could see shaded fuel breaks being compatible if done well. MP – Yeah, can talk about that when out there. GH – Anything else? We're going to go out there and look at that. CS – Public meeting on this specific THP would be helpful

JDSF Landscape Planning Progress Report

John Griffen presented an update via PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Landscape Planning project. The project's purpose is to develop a decision support tool to aid in the determination of potential THP areas that meet the management objectives and the Special Concern Area constraints in the Forest Management Plan, which can also be used to communicate the process that JDSF uses to select areas for inclusion in THPs. Landscape Planning is intended to be an iterative process, where the THP schedule is revisited each year to account for changes in forest conditions and the operational environment. Griffen described two initial steps in the process: (1) identification of stands that meet the criteria for specific silvicultural options, and (2) quantitative analysis of those stands so that they can be ranked for suitability. Step 1, identification, uses various data layers in the Forest's geographic information system such as harvest history, stand age, and site class, along with summary data from the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI), to locate stands that satisfy the conditions for different harvest treatments within the context of the Special Concern Areas in which they occur. Step 2, analysis, then gathers more in-depth data from the FRI plots within each identified stand to calculate values such as volume, average tree diameter, and species composition. Forest staff then discussed some of the considerations that go into deciding which of the suitable stands are most appropriate for THP development. These considerations include the distribution of THPs across the Forest and through time, interactions of THPs with other Forest programs like research and recreation, and estimation of projected revenues. MP – Distributions of THP through the forest and time are what we are working with in (1); (2) is what are the impacts throughout the landscape. We don't concentrate in on one corner for obvious reasons, so this tool lets us look at JDSF as a whole to see what's available and we'll use this exercise at least once a year and then the next year will run again to see where we are. The tool and process will help us present our THP decisions to stakeholders. MJ – Does this include revisiting forest inventory plots? MP – Yes, every 10 years (2017 last). MJ – Is this data available – drooling at possibilities. MP – Part of being a demonstration forest is making data available; this inventory every 10 years is expensive but it is available to researchers. GH – Any questions? Sounds like we will have a lot to talk about in the future. MP – Yeah, wanted to introduce the process to the group because have heard a lot of question in the past as to how we arrive at THP areas. GH – Any attention paid to areas that don't fit within the 10 year timeframe? JDSF has trees 100 years old. LD – Could be said for recreation too, it that was set a long time ago. MP – 10 years out seems workable, but will revisit based upon need. JG – System can be used to find areas that are poorly stocked and then the office evaluation can determine what's going on with that area i.e. not enough redwood, too much hardwood, etc. and reevaluate methodology. GH – Any questions? Anything to add from JDSF? No.

Adjourn this portion of the meeting to meet at the Scales at 11:10 a.m. for the Field Tour.

Field Tour

Caspar 500 Timber Harvest Plan

GH – Is there a market for pine logs? JS - Not currently but will probably be offered as firewood to public. Public – In the harvest clumps, why not leave the large trees? LW - The intent is to open up enough space to allow sunlight to encourage redwood regeneration. Public - Cutting brush along the trail within the shaded fuel break is an added benefit to allow for sight line for trail users to avoid conflict with other users. MA – Tractor trails to be pre-flagged by JDSF for LTO to follow to minimize impacts to area, aesthetics and trails. CS – The eucalyptus demonstration information, how is this info disseminated to the public? LW - JDSF will write a demonstration paper which can be presented at conferences or posted on website. Public – Concerns over the aesthetics of the harvest and fuel break from the trail and road 500. JS – Trees will be marked to fall away from the trails and slash will be treated by looping down. MP – within the shaded fuel break, brush, low tree limbs and slash will likely be treated using a masticator created wood chips. Public - Recommending a public meeting to inform users of area of project and purpose of project. Public – Recommending project information sheets be posted on trailheads and not only at kiosk at road 500 x 600. Public - Appearances of lopping at the Caspar THP does not meet their aesthetic expectations. JS/MP - Looping specifications in contracts might not be adequate in all situations and could be improved. MA - Need to work with contractors so expectations are understood and not necessarily make additional contract constraints. DA – Trials need to be adequately mapped and post-harvest clean up needs to be adequate to meet some minimal level of aesthetic expectation. GH - Increase public outreach and hold a public field meeting to explain project. DA - Motion to support project as proposed and complies with JDSF FMP. MA – Second the motion. JDSF Members Present – All in favor/unanimous.

Caspar 500 THP *Review Item* JDSF asked the JAG committee to find that the Caspar 500 THP complies with the Forest Management Plan. Motion to approve by Doug Albin and Second by Mike Anderson. Unanimous. Amy Wynn and John Andersen absent.